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Thursday
September 11, 1952

At nine this morning, John and I joined Bill O'Dwyer to call on President Aleman at his Chapultepec Castle office. We had a [redacted] friendly interview, in the course of which he expressed a high opinion of O'Dwyer. The President and John are old acquaintances, and enjoyed seeing each other. I found Aleman's personality engaging and interesting. He is tall, graceful in conversation and movement, and almost handsome. His brother is said to be a great speculator.

E. and I went before lunch to the National Museum. There are a number of Rivera frescoes there, depicting scenes of the Conquest, that are well worth seeing. The collection of pre-Colombian objects is not large, and is ill displayed. I was struck by the resemblance of some of the stone carvings and pottery to Chinese art.

John, Bill Martin and I lunched together at Normandia, where we had good French food.

Wilfrid Baumgartner came to see me at three o'clock. He talked to me about the French financial and economic position--which is bad-- and also about certain political matters. I advised him to use his influence to have Herriot come over to present the French case on Tunisia and Morocco to the United Nations.

The Bank and Fund representative from Finland came to call on me. His country finishes this month its reparations payments to [redacted] the Soviet Union and he thinks Finland will be able to maintain a stable economy. He said the Russians are behaving [redacted] correctly in their mutual relationship.

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